New Haven March 13. 1841

My dear Brother

It is five weeks this day since brother Charles & myself left you in New York — & in all that time we have not heard a word from you except incidentally through Helen — I wrote you the day after our return & C — a few days later — & I now write again to ask you why you have been so long silent — It is not usual for you to neglect your friends thus — & we think the more of it on that account — I know your time is very much occupied — but can hardly suppose that it is so much so, that you have not leisure to write a letter — Helen mentioned that Mary had the Scarlet fever. I hope she had it lightly & has recovered ere this — Eddy I suppose must take his turn — for when it once comes into a family — it generally remains until all the children at least, have had it — It is a dreadful disease where the cases are severe — as for instance Cornelia's sickness at the time of the deaths of her little sister & brother —

We are all quite well here. Brother Charles has commenced his labours in the garden — that is, he has trimmed his trees & made a hot bed &c — preparatory for the season — The ground is however still wet & cold & indeed now, is entirely covered with snow. — Cornelia is in school daily — & as her health is better than early in the winter, the inference is, that a long walk is beneficial to her. Willie is in high health & overflowing with life and joy. He wants to be doing something from morning till night — & he is very apt to do that which he ought not — He inherits a good share of his Father's perseverance & energy — & ~~some~~ of his temper — but he is easily managed — & is a pleasant playful, good natured little fellow — The hearts of his parents are very much bound up in him — & he shows a great love for his Father. He loves his Mother of course — but it is not always that a child exhibits the affection for a Father that he does —

I received a letter a few weeks since from brother George & Louisa all well except sister Harriet — L— is out of school this winter but takes lessons on the Piano — & says her teacher requires her to practice four hours daily — She expresses a wish to see her cousin Mary — John sings Whig songs, & tells the stories from 'Mother Goose's Melodies' —

I have attended several Lectures before the Young Men's Institute. One was from your friend Smith, giving some account of your journey from Cairo to Jerusalem &c — a second from Dr Cox on History, a third from Prof. Lovering of Harvard on Astronomy — & a fourth this week from Rev Hollis Read formerly a Missionary to India — on Variety. I am repeatedly asked whether ~~my~~ brother is coming up, & told that a Lecture in is expected from him &c — — Mrs Silliman & her daughter called upon me a few days since — The former enquired after you, whether you had been up &c — & when I said you were very much occupied & confined by the printing of your work, which you were anxious to have published as soon as possible — she replied not more anxious than the public are' — Col. Trumbull has been quite feeble this winter & much confined to the house, but at that time was gone to New York —

The principal topic of conversation here at present is the preaching of Elder Knapp of the Baptist denomination — There are various opinions respecting it among other denominations — though the general impression seems to be favorable — Every body goes to hear him once at least, even the clergy. Mr Ludlow is altogether in favor of him — He has been preaching nearly three weeks every afternoon & evening, & not without some good effects. He can be very solemn & often is — but in the midst of it all, he will say, or do something, to excite a smile & often a laugh. He draws great crowds. I have heard him once only — There is considerable religious excitement in College & a number of conversions — twelve the last I heard —

We have been hoping to see Helen & her family here before thi but I fear she intends to delay, so that she will have time but for a very brief visit. I want to go to New York for a few days previo to her leaving for the west — Can Mrs Hubbard accommodate me?

We have real March weather — & last night a terrible snow storm which ended in rain & wind — I think we may reasonably expect a change for the better by & by —

Will you not write to us soon?

Love from all to Theresa & the children

Your affectionate sister

Elisabeth —

I think sister Theresa promised us a visit in April. We hope she will come & you & all —

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